



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

October 2004

MIXED IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION

Walworth County's unemployment rate declined slightly two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.1 percent in September. Compared to last September, Walworth's labor force has over 100 more employed residents and 215 fewer unemployed precipitating an unemployment rate that is four-tenths of a point lower. This is Walworth lowest unemployment rate for the month of Sep-

tember since 2000.

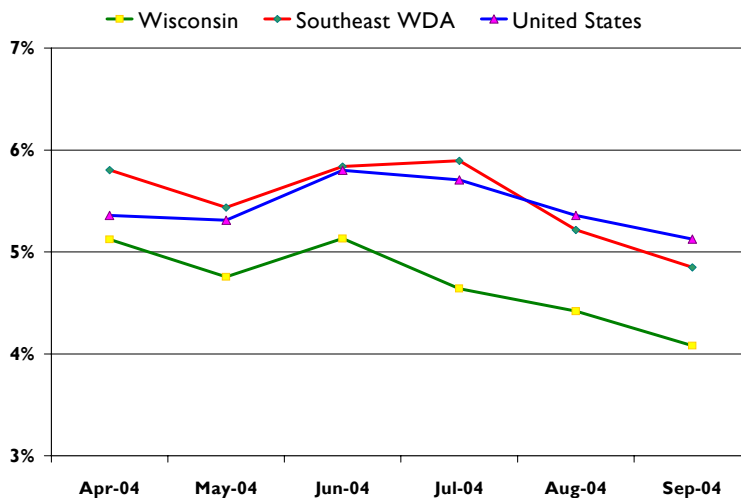
Walworth's industry employment tally figures totaled 43,500 jobs in September. This is a monthly increase of 500 jobs. This overall increase is mainly a reflection of monthly changes in two industry sectors, leisure and hospitality, which reduces employment in the fall months (-600 jobs in September) and government employ-

ment, which rises in the fall indicating that schools are back in session after the summer break (+1,300 jobs).

Walworth's annual jobs performance was flat with no overall change in employment. There were small gains of 100 jobs each in manufacturing; education and health services; and total trade employment. These gains were offset by annual losses in leisure and hospitality (-200 jobs) and transportation, warehousing and utilities(-100 jobs). Year to date, Walworth has shown slight job growth, but most of it came at the beginning of 2004 and has since slowed to flat annual growth and a slight annual decline in the revised August total employment figure.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the **Racine MSA** decreased by six-tenths of a percentage point to 6.0 percent in September. The county shows the southeast region's largest unemployment rate drop when compared to last September's

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



source: DWD and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: September 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Sep-04	Aug-04	Sep-03	Sep-04	Aug-04	Sep-03	Sep-04	Aug-04	Sep-03
Labor force	3,099,792	3,145,867	3,073,847	85,174	85,955	84,924	94,200	96,240	95,157
Employed	2,973,282	3,006,864	2,929,770	81,067	81,689	80,511	88,576	89,898	88,380
Unemployed	126,510	139,003	144,077	4,107	4,266	4,413	5,624	6,342	6,777
% Unemployed	4.1%	4.4%	4.7%	4.8%	5.0%	5.2%	6.0%	6.6%	7.1%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Sep-04	Aug-04	Sep-03	Sep-04	Aug-04	Sep-03	Sep-04	Aug-04	Sep-03
Labor force	57,778	57,975	57,881	237,152	240,170	237,962	147,186,000	148,166,000	146,166,000
Employed	56,008	56,055	55,896	225,651	227,642	224,787	139,641,000	140,226,000	137,731,000
Unemployed	1,770	1,920	1,985	11,501	12,528	13,175	7,545,000	7,940,000	8,436,000
% Unemployed	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	4.8%	5.2%	5.5%	5.1%	5.4%	5.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - September 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	Change since Sept. 2004	Change since Aug. 2004	Change since Sept. 2003	Change since Sept. 2004	Change since Aug. 2004	Change since Sept. 2003	Change since Sept. 2004	Change since Aug. 2004	Change since Sept. 2003	Change since Sept. 2004	Change since Aug. 2004	Change since Sept. 2003	Change since Sept. 2004	Change since Aug. 2004	Change since Sept. 2003
All Industries	2851.2	-3.2	52.9	54.6	0.0	0.3	80.0	-0.4	0.0	43.5	0.5	0.0	178.1	0.1	0.3
Construction/Natural Resources	137.6	-4.3	1.4	2.4	-0.1	0.0	3.9	-0.1	0.0	2.1	-0.1	0.0	8.4	-0.3	0.0
Manufacturing	519.8	-5.2	12.6	9.3	-0.1	-0.6	19.6	-0.1	-0.4	9.0	0.0	0.1	37.9	-0.2	-0.9
Total Trade	442.0	-3.8	8.6	8.9	0.0	0.1	12.2	-0.1	-0.7	5.8	-0.1	0.1	26.9	-0.2	-0.5
Retail Trade	324.1	-3.5	4.9	6.9	0.0	0.2	9.2	-0.1	-0.6	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	117.9	-0.3	3.7	2.0	0.0	-0.1	3.0	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	110.0	3.7	2.1	1.5	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.1	-0.1	4.7	0.2	-0.1
Financial Activities	161.6	-0.5	2.6	1.8	0.0	0.1	2.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.2
Education and Health Services	380.1	4.9	10.2	8.4	0.3	0.1	10.5	0.0	0.1	3.9	0.0	0.1	22.8	0.3	0.3
Leisure and Hospitality	259.2	-16.1	3.3	6.3	-0.4	0.1	6.7	-0.4	-0.1	7.9	-0.6	-0.2	20.9	-1.4	-0.2
Info./Prof./Bus. and Other Services	444.9	-3.1	13.2	6.7	0.0	0.2	12.1	0.1	0.9	5.1	-0.1	0.0	23.9	0.0	1.1
Information	47.6	-0.9	-1.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	269.0	-1.4	16.6	3.5	0.0	0.2	6.7	0.0	0.8	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	128.3	-0.8	-2.1	2.7	0.0	-0.1	4.8	0.1	0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	396.0	21.2	-1.1	9.3	0.3	0.3	10.1	0.1	0.1	7.4	1.3	0.0	26.8	1.7	0.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

rate of 7.1 percent. Racine County has 200 more employed and 1,200 fewer unemployed residents compared to one year ago.

Racine County's September industry employment tally measured 80,000 total jobs. This total was 400 jobs less than August's final total. The bulk of the monthly net job loss was seasonal with a 400 job loss in leisure and hospitality employment. Losses of 100 jobs each were in construction, manufacturing and total trade employment. The monthly job losses were in the realm of seasonal expectation. Small gains of 100 jobs each slightly offset the losses. These gains were in other services; government; and transportation, warehousing and utilities.

The annual industry perspective in Racine County, like Walworth's, shows no overall change in the tally of total jobs, though there was a great deal of annual change, both positive and negative, on an individual industry sector basis. Manufacturing; total trade; and leisure and hospitality each decreased in employment. Retail trade showed the largest annual decline. Employment gains in professional and business

services offset these losses. There were other small employment gains in financial activities, education and health services, other services, and government. This is the second month in a row that Racine County has shown no change in its overall total of jobs, annually.

The **Kenosha MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in September. This is a decrease of two-tenths of a percentage point, monthly, and four-tenths annually. The county has 600 more employed and 300 fewer unemployed residents in comparison to September 2003.

Kenosha County's September jobs count from the nonfarm wage and salary estimates survey tallied 54,600 job, which is unchanged from August's final tally. The majority of Kenosha County's industry sectors showed no monthly change in employment with the exceptions of leisure and hospitality; manufacturing; and construction decreasing in employment by 400, 100 and 100 jobs, respectively. These decreases were offset by gains in government (+300 jobs) and education and health services employment (+300 jobs). These

gains were seasonal indicating the return of faculty and staff to both public and private educational institutions.

Kenosha County's annual industry dynamics show the only regional increase in the number of jobs. Kenosha has gained 300 jobs, overall. The majority of sectors show an overall gain in employment. Three sectors show annual losses: manufacturing, wholesale trade and other services. Employment gains in various sectors offset these losses. The larger gains were in government (+300 jobs), professional and business services (+200 jobs), and retail trade (+200 jobs). September is the first month since May to show an annual increase in the number of jobs in Kenosha County.

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